

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10150 211929Z

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SUBJECT: ZINAIDA KRUGLOVA HEADS UNION OF FRIENDSHIP SOCIETIES

REF: MOSCOW 8023

1. THE SHORT-TERM DEPUTY MINISTER OF CULTURE USSR, ZINAIDA M. KRUGLOVA, HAS MOVED TO THE POST OF CHAIRWOMAN OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIETIES FOR FRIENDSHIP AND CULTURAL TIES WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES. THE PREVIOUS CHAIRWOMAN, N.V. POPOVA, RETIRED ON PENSION FROM THE UNION, ACCORDING TO PRAVDA OF JULY 19.

2. COMMENT: POPOVA, AGE 67, PROBABLY RETIRED FOR REASONS OF AGE OR HEALTH. HER RANK OF FULL MEMBER OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE WILL PROBABLY BE GIVEN AT THE 25TH PARTY CONGRESS TO KRUGLOVA, AGE 52, WHO NOW IS A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL AUDITING COMMISSION OF THE CPSU, A RANK GIVEN HER AS THE FORMER SECRETARY FOR IDEOLOGY OF THE LENINGRAD OBLAST PARTY COMMITTEE. KRUGLOVA HAS NOT HAD MUCH PUBLIC EXPOSURE AS DEPUTY MINISTER OF CULTURE, A POST HELD ONLY SINCE NOVEMBER 1974.

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 10150 211929Z

3. KRUGLOVA'S TRANSFER FROM THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

USSR LEAVES AN OPENING TO BE FILLED. AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS INDICATIVE OF THE UNSETTLED STATE OF AFFAIRS IN CENTRAL MANAGEMENT OF CULTURAL LIFE. NO SUCCESSOR HAS YET BEEN NAMED TO FILL THE JOB OF CPSU SECRETARY FOR CULTURE SINCE P. N. DEMICHEV WAS SHIFTED TO THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE IN NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR. FOR THE TIME BEING, THE CPSU SECRETARIAT, CHIEFLY M.A. SUSLOV, HAS HANDLED CULTURAL AFFAIRS ON A TROUBLE-SHOOTING BASIS. THE LACK OF FULL-TIME PARTY AUTHORITY HAS HELD UP SOME CULTURAL AUTHORITIES HAVE OCCASIONALLY DISPLAYED A WILLINGNESS TO TEMPORIZE OR EVEN COOPERATE WITHIN LIMITS WITH DISSIDENT ARTISTS AND IN A RELATIVELY ENLIGHTENED MANNER (REFTEL). IN PART THIS ACCOMMODATING MANNER SHOULD BE ASCRIBED TO A SENSITIVITY ABOUT CRITICAL MEDIA COVERAGE AT A TIME WHEN SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY REQUIRES FAVORABLE OR AT THE WORST NEUTRAL PUBLICITY IN CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC MATTERS. TO THIS SHOULD BE ADDED THE EDUCATION RECEIVED BY SOVIET CULTURAL AUTHORITIES AFTER SUCH HAND-HEDED EXERCISES AS THE "ART MASSACRE" OF SEPTEMBER 1974.

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